

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUJUMB 00522 241309 Z

63

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 IO-12 ADP-00 NEA-10 ACDA-19 AID-20 EUR-25 EB-11

GAC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 OMB-01 SR-02

ORM-03 RSR-01 /188 W

----- 023595

R 240853 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3794

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL BUKAVU

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUJUMBURA 0522

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, BY, RW, CG

SUBJ: RWANDAN AMBASSADOR SETS FOR TH RWANDAN VIEWS RE BURUNDI' S
ACCUSATIONS

REF ADDIS 6102 (NOTAL); KIGALI 320 (NOTAL) AND 326 AND PREVIOUS

SUMMARY: RWANDAN AMBASSADOR CALLED ON CHARGE TO EXPLAIN
RWANDAN POSITION RE DISUPT WITH BURUNDI AND EXPLAINED
SOME POINTS PREVIOUSLY UNCLEAR. HE THOUGHT CURRENT REBEL
ATTACKS COUNTERPRODUCTIVE AND WONDERED WHY FOREIGN
EMBASSIES HAVE NOT TRIED TO STOP REPRISALS IN BURUNDI.
GRB INFORMATION BULLETIN MAY 21 PUBLISHED MAY 18 SPEECH
BY GOVERNOR OF BUJUMBURA PROVINCE WHICH ATTACKED RWANDA
IN EVEN STRONGER THAN USUAL TERMS. END SUMMARY
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PAGE 02 BUJUMB 00522 241309 Z

1. AFTER REFERRING TO EMERGENCY BURUNDI- RWANDA DISPUTE AT OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING (REPORTED ADDIS REFTEL), RWANDAN AMBASSADOR, CALLING ON CHARGE MAY 23 AT HIS OWN REQUEST, SET FORTH RWANDAN POSITION ALONG LINES REPORTED PREVIOUSLY IN EMBASSY KIGALI, EMPHASIZING RWANDAN GOOD FAITH EFFORTS TO PREVENT REFUGEES FROM ATTACKING BURUNDI. HE MADE FOLLOWING POINTS OF INTEREST:

A. RWANDAN MINISTER NATIONAL GUARD HABYALIMANA OVERFLEW BORDER AREA IN AIRPLANE ON MAY 13 AND IN HELICOPTER ON MAY 14 BOTH TIMES TO TRY TO DETERMINE WHAT REFUGEES WERE DOING. HE INADVERTENTLY VIOLATED BURUNDI AIR SPACE IN AREA WHERE BORDER IN DISPUTE AND IS NOT WELL MARKED.

B. IT WAS NOT UNTIL MORNING MAY 13 THAT RWANDA GOVERNMENT REALIZED THAT REFUGEES HAD OUTFLANKED GOR EFFORTS TO PLACE ARMY BETWEEN REFUGEES AND BORDER. WHEN ARMY TOOK UP POSITION ALONG BORDER, IT SAW PARTY OF REFUGEES ALREADY IN BURUNDI TERRITORY.

C. MUNYANEZA MESSAGE SENT BY TELEGRAM BECAUSE TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN KIGALI AND BUJUMBURA OPEN ONLY TWO HOURS SUNDAYS.

D. RWANDAN GOVERNMENT IS CONCENTRATING ALL BURUNDI REFUGEES, INCLUDING THOSE PREVIOUSLY IN CAMP NORTH OF NGOZI AND THOSE WHO HAVE RETURNED FROM ATTEMPTED INVASION OF BURUNDI, AT RILIMA CAMP, WHERE THEY ARE BEING KEPT UNDER CLOSE WATCH.

E. LACK OF SUITABLE LAND MAKES IT DIFFICULT FOR RWANDA TO MOVE REFUGEES FARTHER FROM BORDER.

F. AMBASSADOR CONCEDED THAT BURUNDI HAS KEPT REFUGEES FROM ATTACKING RWANDA SINCE 1967 OR 68 BUT NOTED THAT IT HAD TAKEN SIX OR SEVEN YEARS FOR GRB TO REACH THAT POLICY.

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PAGE 03 BUJUMB 00522 241309 Z

G. AMBASSADOR HAS BEEN UNABLE TO GET APPOINTMENT WITH ANY APPROPRIATE BURUNDI OFFICIAL TO PROVIDE EXPLANATIONS BURUNDI EARLIER DEMANDED.

2. AMBASSADOR WONDERED MILDLY WHY OTHER EMBASSIES HAVE NOT TAKEN SOME ACTION WITH REGARD TO THE RENEWED REPRESSION IN BURUNDI. CHARGE, GOING INTO SOME DETAIL,

EXPLAINED THAT WHILE HE COULD NOT SPEAK FOR OTHER EMBASSIES, IT SEEMED UNLILELY THAT USG COULD ACT EFFECTIVELY. CHARGE SAID HE FELT MEDIATION BY MOBUTU OR OAU MOST LIKELY SOURCE EFFECTIVE OUTSIDE INFLUENCE. AMBASSADOR OFFERED NO ALTERNATIVE SUGGESTION.

3. AMBASSADOR COMMENTED THAT REBELS DID NOT HAVE CAPABILITY TO ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING AND THAT, THEREFORE, THEIR ATTACKS WERE ONLY DESTRUCTIVE TO THEMSELVES, RWANDA, AND HUTUS STILL IN BURUNDI.

4. IN A SPEECH DELIVERED MAY 18, BUT PUBLISHED IN FRENCH TRANSLATION ONLE MAY 21, GOVERNOR RUMBETE OF BUJUMBURA ATTACKED RWANDA IN HARSHER THAN USUAL TERMS AS " SWAORN ENEMY OF BURUNDI AND AFRICA", WHICH " SOWS DEATH" IN BURUNDI. AMBASSADOR SAIS SPEECH EVEN HARSHER AND MORE INFLAMMATORY IN ORIGINAL KIRUNDI.

KEITER

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NMAFVVZCZ

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BUKAVU
DAR ES SALAAM
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